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The President's Daily Brief

August 6, 1976

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Table of Contents

Lebanon: The new cease-fire seems to be holding in most areas [redacted] *(Page 1)*

50X1

Turkey-Greece: The new plans announced yesterday for the Turkish research ship Sismik I increase the chances of a Turkish-Greek incident. *(Page 2)*

North Korea - South Korea: The North Korean government yesterday issued a statement attacking alleged US war preparations in South Korea. *(Page 3)*

Notes: USSR; Cuba-Congo; Romania-USSR *(Pages 5 and 6)*

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/05 : CIA-RDP79T00024A000200010005-1

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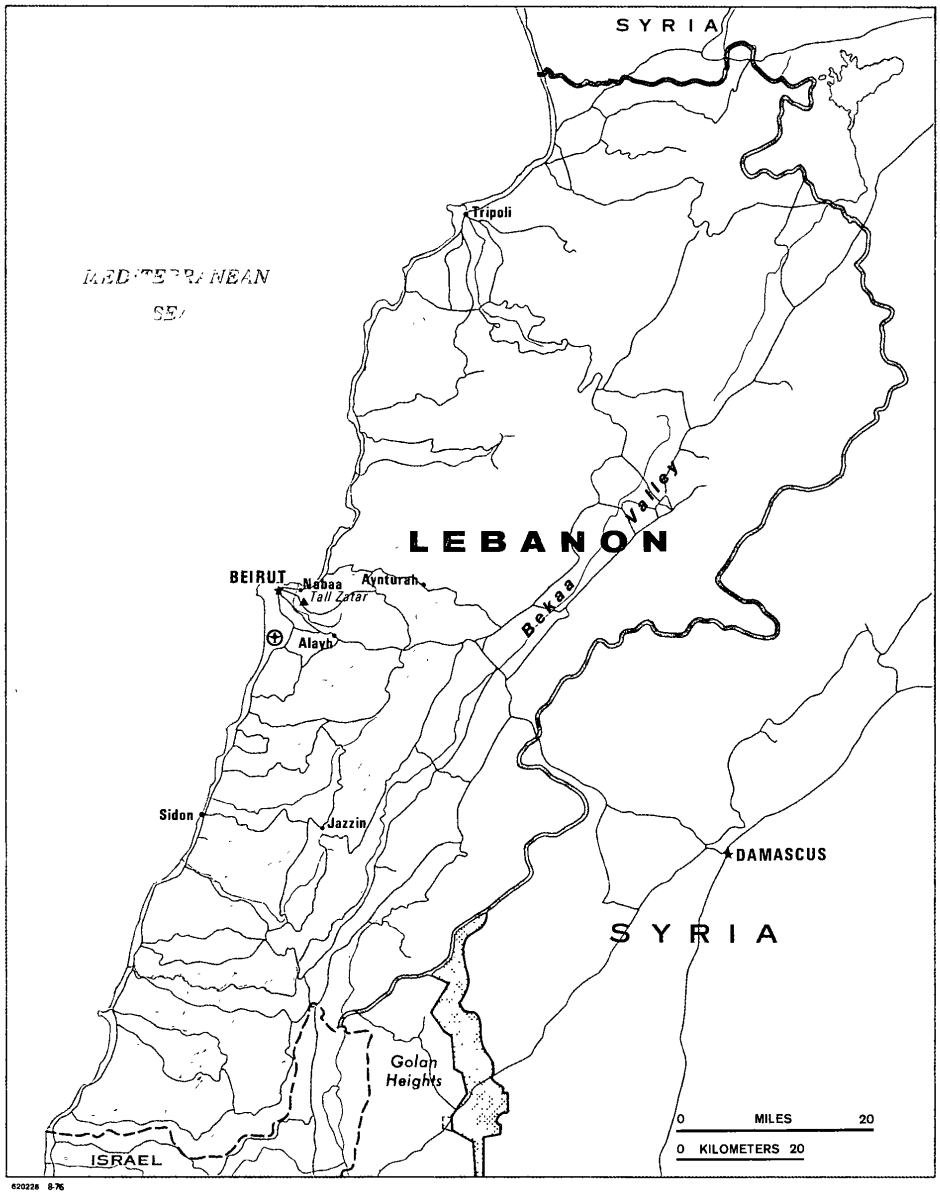

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LEBANON: *The cease-fire brokered by the Arab League went into effect yesterday, and seemed to be holding in all areas of the country except in the vicinity of Tall Zatar and the nearby Muslim enclave of Nabaa.*

Christian forces launched a major attack on Palestinian-leftist positions around Tall Zatar and Nabaa just before the truce was to take effect, and as of early this morning clashes were continuing. The Christians claim they overran Nabaa early yesterday and forced several high-ranking Palestinian and leftist militia leaders to surrender. This attack apparently caused the postponement of the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese truce committee meeting scheduled for yesterday, and triggered warnings from the leftists that they would not allow Nabaa to fall into Christian hands.

Arrangements for deploying Arab League forces to observation posts in Jazzin, Alayh, Aynturah, Tripoli, and both east and west Beirut are still going forward. These areas have been the scene of the heaviest fighting over the past several weeks. Syrian troops will presumably continue to patrol the Bekaa Valley.

League troops are also charged under the truce agreement with opening Beirut airport by August 15 and escorting travelers to and from the airport.

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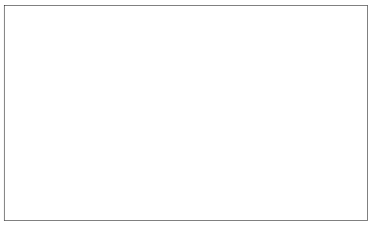

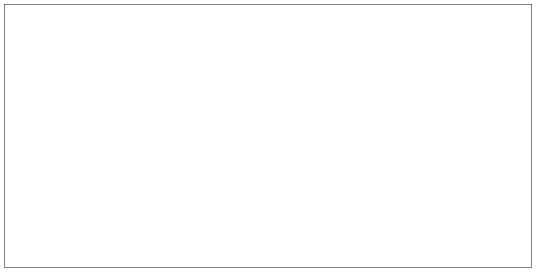

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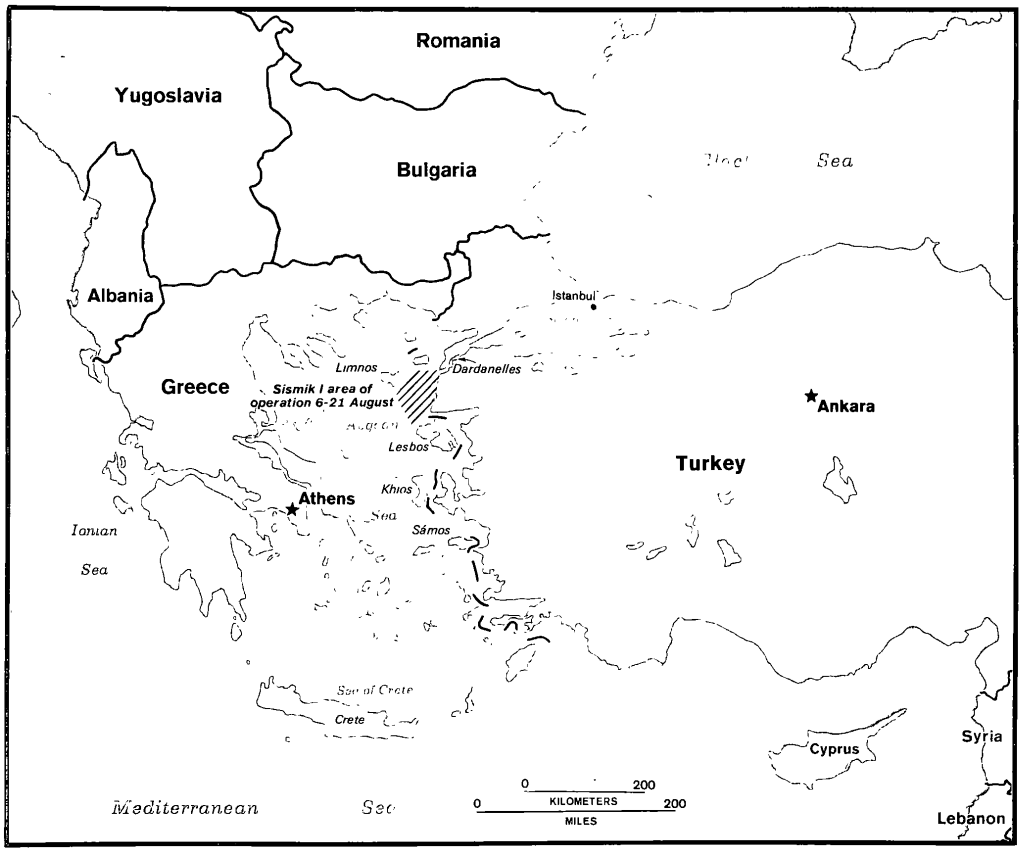

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[redacted]

The Syrians, for their part, have put some pressure on the Christians to cooperate with the Arab League and have recently shown discomfort over the international attention being given to Israel's role in the Lebanese dispute.

Foreign Minister Khaddam recently appeared totally preoccupied with the assistance other Arabs are giving to the Palestinians and the Lebanese left. He seems to believe that meddling by "foreign elements"--presumably Egypt and the Soviet Union--was the greatest threat to Syria's recent efforts to end the crisis.

* * *

TURKEY-GREECE: *The new coordinates announced for the second phase of the voyage of the Turkish research ship Sismik I increase the chances of a Turkish-Greek incident.*

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel announced yesterday that the ship would begin its second trip into the Aegean last night. The Turkish navy, meanwhile, issued a notice to mariners covering the period from August 6 to 21 and involving an area between the Turkish mainland and the Greek islands of Limnos and Lesbos where both countries have conflicting claims on the oil and mineral resources of the seabed.

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

Greek Prime Minister Caramanlis appears increasingly pessimistic about Turkish intentions in the Aegean and prospects for avoiding a clash.

He probably will accept a brief foray by the Turkish ship into contested waters, but a deeper penetration or an extended stay in disputed areas could lead Caramanlis to take strong countermeasures.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

* * *

NORTH KOREA - SOUTH KOREA: *The North Korean government statement yesterday attacking alleged US war preparations in South Korea appears intended to enhance North Korea's position at the approaching nonaligned summit in Colombo.*

The statement--the first at this level directed specifically at US actions in the south since 1969--rejects the recently renewed US proposal for a four-power conference on Korea. Characterizing the proposal as "stalling tactics,"

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the statement puts forward the standard North Korean demand for a unilateral withdrawal of US forces and the scrapping of the armistice agreement.

Since early this spring North Korean propaganda has almost daily charged the US with introducing new weapons into the south, conducting provocative military exercises, and keeping South Korean armed forces on a war footing.

The new statement reiterates all these charges and adds that the US and South Korea have now "completed" war preparations and are ready to "directly kindle the fuse of war." The statement does not threaten any new or unusual countermeasures.

The statement was released only hours after a shooting incident along the demilitarized zone, but made no reference to it. The incident, which lasted only a few minutes and caused no casualties, did not differ much from the half a dozen or so that have preceded it this year. In this case, North Korea may have deliberately precipitated an incident in order to give added impact to the government statement.

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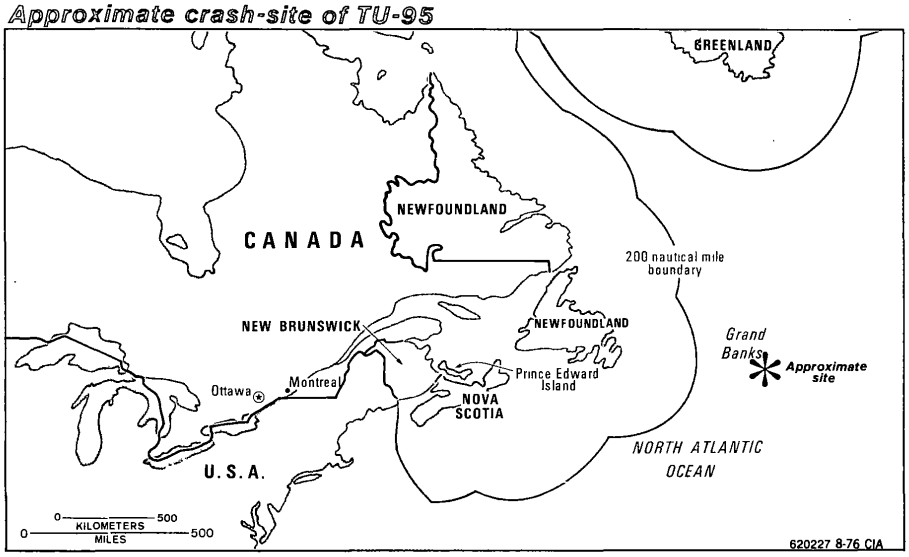
Approximate crash-site of TU-95



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NOTES

Soviet *search operations for wreckage of the downed TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft continued yesterday in the North Atlantic east of Newfoundland.*

About six Soviet merchant ships are engaged in the search.

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The crash was the third known involving TU-95 aircraft. The others occurred in 1967 and 1971. The naval reconnaissance version of the TU-95 is believed to carry about a dozen crew members.

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Cuba

Congo

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President Ceausescu seems to be using his current stay in the Crimea to put the best possible face on relations between Romania *and the* USSR.

Ceausescu met General Secretary Brezhnev on Tuesday for "cordial and friendly" talks on a wide range of subjects, including an "exchange of opinions" on the future course of communism in Europe. According to the Romanian news agency, they affirmed their support of the cohesion of the socialist countries in terms usually adopted by Moscow to connote Soviet leadership of the movement.

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